

annual report

*Nearly a century ago,
famed educator John Dewey said,*

**“If we teach today’s
students as we taught
yesterday’s, we rob
them of tomorrow.”**



OHIO'S PREMIER E-SCHOOL

2013-2014 Parent Informational Booklet
and 2012-2013 Annual Report

letter from the superintendent...

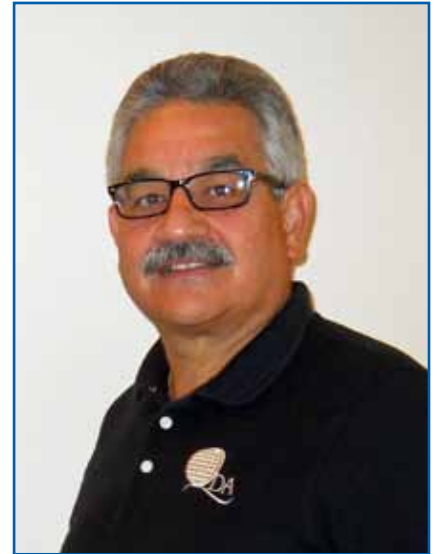
Dear QDA Community,

The 2013-14 school year has begun with a rush of enrollments and challenges for QDA. We have seen our school grow from 25 to over 600 students. In addition, QDA has opened offices in Berlin, East Liverpool, New Philadelphia, and Steubenville to provide better services to its families. We pride ourselves in providing our students and their families with a high quality, tuition-free education for grades K-12 throughout Ohio. QDA's success is built on the belief that all students can excel if given the opportunity to explore their strengths, both academically and personally. Our students and parents are supported by certified teachers, while being provided with accredited curriculum to meet their individual needs. In addition, QDA has added a counselor to assist the instructional supervisors who give personalized attention to each child.

QDA utilizes several nationally certified curricula to help meet the academic needs of our diverse student population. We are preparing QDA students to be independent thinkers and self-motivators who, with support, are taking charge of their education, providing them the skills to meet the demands of the 21st century. In addition to our academic offerings, QDA provides students with the opportunity to participate in educational field trips, join activities, and receive tutoring.

Our goal at QDA is offer every student a high quality education that will prepare them for their future endeavors.

Sincerely,
Dr. Richard J. Varrati
CEO/Executive Director



Across the United States, an approximate 250,000 students have gone fully digital, forgoing traditional brick and mortar schools for the cyber option. According to the Evergreen Education Group, which works primarily with cyber institutions, this reflects a 40% rise in student enrollment over the last three years.

For the team at QDA, growth in education isn't just one of the mission statements, it's a physical reality. Founded in 2003, the increasing interest in the world of cyber education has motivated QDA to continually adapt to meet the tide of students and families who are turning to the digital realm as an alternative to brick and mortar institutions. What began as a small, single office operation in New Philadelphia, OH, has expanded to multiple locations across the state. With offices in Berlin, Steubenville and East Liverpool, and a team constantly hosting enrollment seminars across the state, QDA has increased their presence on the scene to make sure potential students know that they have options in choosing their education.

The principles of the school, as instituted by its CEO, Dr. Richard Varrati, suggest that a student's school should be "made of choices, not bricks." To this end, QDA constantly seeks to provide

new opportunities to those enrolled and providing individual attention that may not always be available in the shuffle of a classroom. Whereas a student at a brick and mortar school has a group of classmates with which to vie for attention, each individual enrolled in QDA is assigned an Instructional Supervisor (otherwise referred to as an "IS") that serves as a main point of contact for the student and their family. The IS handles all school related issues for the students and keeps in regular contact to ensure success in their studies. Furthermore, each student's education is tailor-made for the individual. QDA is fully aware that what helps one person learn may not work for the next, and so forth. So, rather than have one strict set of curriculum, the company has invested in providing options. Offering a selection of cutting edge, state-approved curriculum, QDA is able to create a personalized learning path that fits the needs of the individual.

With the ever-rising number of students turning to cyber education, QDA has more than proven it is ready to meet the challenges of the shifting landscape and the needs of those enrolled. QDA's growth mirrors that of the changing world, and it reflects the need for students to be able to choose their own education and find their own way to success.

tech update

- As QDA continues to expand over the State of Ohio, the technology department is committed to keeping our students connected to the latest cutting edge technology. Over the past few years, QDA has implemented numerous network infrastructure changes to improve the efficiency and reliability of our network resources:
- The QDA homepage has been entirely revamped.
- The QDA Learning Management System has received a new design and numerous behind the scene upgrades.
- Our New Philadelphia office continues to increase bandwidth to improve the speed of our homepage and learning management system.
- Our phone system has been upgraded to a new Voice-over IP system.
- We have implemented Citrix XenApps to provide access to various programs from any device.

New for the 2013-2014 School Year

- Our Steubenville and East Liverpool offices will upgrade to fiber optics for Internet connectivity.
- Our Steubenville and East Liverpool offices will upgrade to a new Voice-over IP system.
- Our Learning Management System will have a new ticketing system.

Computer Systems

- Current Model
- Type: Notebook
- Operating System: Windows 7 or Windows 8
- CPU: Intel Core i3
- RAM: 4GB DDR3
- Screen: 15.6in
- Hard Drive: 500GB



Is QDA what you are looking for? Why QDA?

The World is Changing - Education is Evolving

Did you know that many states now require every student to take at least one online course to earn a high school diploma? Among other things, this new stipulation seeks to ensure that these students will be prepared for the digital learning opportunities they are bound to encounter in college and career-training programs in the future.

Support

The QDA Technology Department provides multiple levels of support to get our students back online as quickly as possible. Our 24/7 support can answer most questions, and support is also available Monday-Friday. In addition, the QDA Technology Department can initiate a remote desktop session with just a few clicks.

Email System

The QDA Email System is powered by Google Apps for Education. Each student enrolled in QDA will receive their own email address along with a document center and personal calendar. Google Apps guarantees a 99.9% up time.

Learning Management System

Our LMS provides students with a centralized access point for their courses, information and support. Built exclusively for QDA, our LMS is hosted and maintained onsite. Each student will be provided one simple account that will allow them to access their curriculum through our single sign-on system.

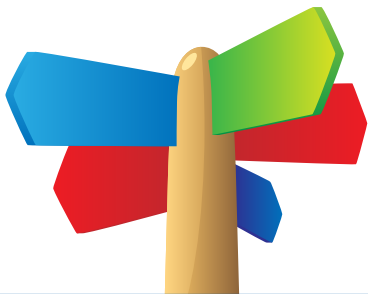
Tutoring

Regardless of whether you are five or fifty minutes away from your teacher, our staff can now host interactive tutoring sessions. Students will see and hear the teacher as if they were in the same room.

Tech Questions?

Feel free to send an email to tech@go2qda.org at anytime or call 330.339.7159 during business hours Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.





FIELD TRIPS



Field Trips Offerings

QDA offers educational field trips to our students.

Fort Steuben

Fri, Sept 13, 2013 | 10:00 -2:00 pm



Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center

Midland, PA Presents Peter and the Wolf
Thurs, Oct 17, 2013 | 12:00 pm

Newark, OH

Tues, April 15, 2014 | 11 - 2 pm

Lou Holtz Upper Ohio Valley Hall of Fame

East Liverpool, OH
Thurs, April 24, 2014 | 11 am

Laura Ingalls Wilder

Kent State Performing Arts
Mon, May 12, 2014 | 12:30 pm

The Wilds

Cumberland, OH
Thurs, May 15, 2014 | 10:30 - 2 pm



Oglebay Good Zoo

Wheeling, WV
Thurs, May 22, 2014 | 11 - 5 pm



Dr. Insecta

Kent State Performing Arts
Tues, Oct 22, 2013 | 12:30 pm

Zoar Village

Zoar, OH | Oct 24, 2013

Dinosaur Train Live

Kent State Performing Arts
Tues, Nov 12, 2013 | 12:30 pm

Hale Farm & Village

Bath, OH | Thurs, Nov 14, 2013 | 10 - 2 pm

Science of the Circus: The Aerialist

Kent State Performing Arts
Wed, Nov 20, 2013 | 12:30 pm

The Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra

Presents A Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald
Kent State Performing Arts
Fri, Feb 7, 2014 | 12:30 pm

William McKinley Museum

Canton, OH | Tues, Feb 18, 2014 | 11 am
The Works





Nationwide, an estimated 250,000 students are enrolled in full-time virtual schools. This is up 40 percent in the last three years, according to Evergreen Education Group, a consulting firm that works with online schools. More than two million pupils take at least one class online, according to the International Association for K-12 Online Learning, a trade group.

Above: Students participate in the Annual QDA Book Fair.



Graduation Rate



This rating answers the question – How many students from your school graduate in four, five, or six years?

4-Year Graduation Rate

The 4-year graduation rate applies to the Class of 2012 who graduated within four years, i.e. students who entered the 9th grade in 2009 and graduated by 2012.

RATING
Coming in
2014

33.1%

A rating of Exceeds Standards, Meets Standards, or Does Not Meet Standards will be applied to this score in 2014.



5-Year Graduation Rate

The 5-year graduation rate applies to the Class of 2011 who graduated within five years, i.e. students who entered the 9th grade in 2008 and graduated by 2012.

RATING
Coming in
2014

37.1%

A rating of Exceeds Standards, Meets Standards, or Does Not Meet Standards will be applied to this score in 2014.



6-Year Graduation Rate

The 6-year graduation rate applies to the Class of 2010 who graduated within five years, i.e. students who entered the 9th grade in 2007 and graduated by 2012.

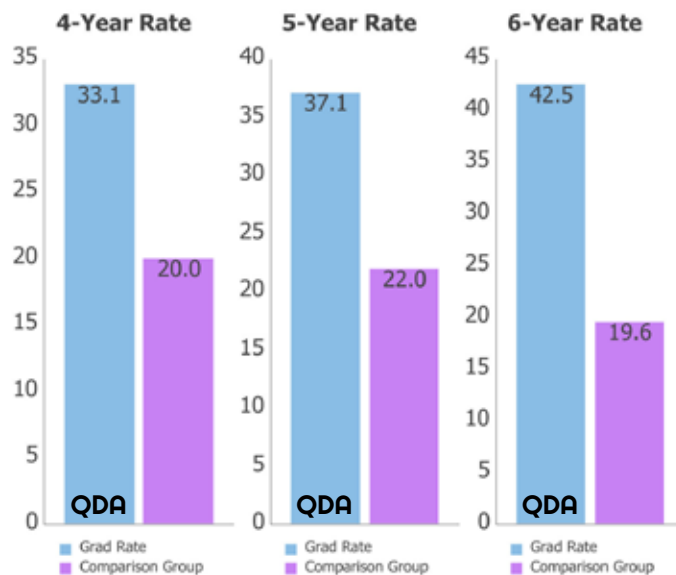
RATING
Coming in
2014

42.5%

A rating of Exceeds Standards, Meets Standards, or Does Not Meet Standards will be applied to this score in 2014.



How does this school compare with similar schools in the state.



QDA Assessment Over Time

All students in the school for a full academic year are included in the results.

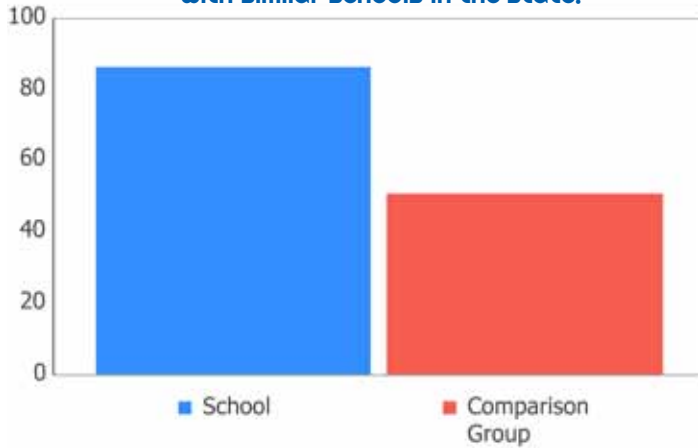
Each school year, school districts throughout the State of Ohio compile a report to be distributed to the parents of children attending their school. This report is available to the public and is available on-line. QDA complies with all state and district requirements as outlined by the Ohio Department of Education through the Department of Community Schools. QDA is sponsored by the New Philadelphia City Schools.

High School Assessment Test Passage Rate



This rating answers the question – How many students in your school passed all five state tests that are required for graduation?

How does this school compare with similar schools in the state.



86.4%

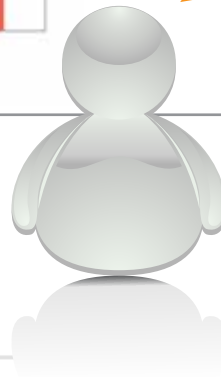
A rating of Exceeds Standards, Meets Standards, or Does Not Meet Standards will be applied to this score in 2014.

*Data available at time of printing.

Gap Closing



This rating shows how well all students are doing in your school in reading, math, and graduation. It answers the question – Is every student succeeding, regardless of income, race, culture or disability?



GRADE
Coming in 2014

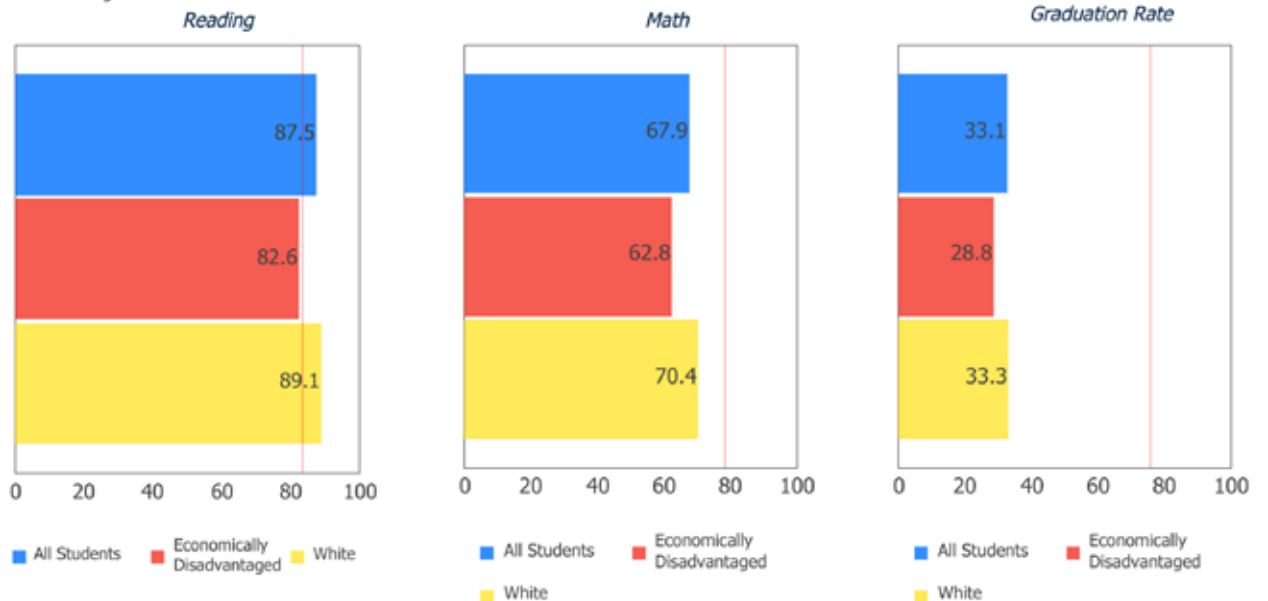
Annual Measurable Objectives

Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) compare the performance of all students to a state goal which is displayed as the red line in the following charts. These charts show how well each group achieves that goal in reading, math and graduation – and emphasize any achievement gaps that exist between groups. The ultimate goal is for all groups to achieve at high levels.



38.2%

A rating of Exceeds Standards, Meets Standards, or Does Not Meet Standards will be applied to this score in 2014.



The red line on each graph identifies the Annual Measurable Objective. The 2013 AMO for Reading is 83.4%, for Math is 78.5%, and for Graduation Rate is 75.9%. Subgroups with fewer than 30 students are not rated and do not appear on the graphs.

digital education
could be right for you...

RIGOROUS but *flexible.*

qda enrollment projections

03-04	15
04-05	40
05-06	128
06-07	162
07-08	225
08-09	290
09-10	397
10-11	489
11-12	525
12-13	599
13-14	615
14-15	700
15-16	725
16-17	825



Academic Standard 3.0 GPA
Character | Service to Others
Citizenship | Leadership

The QDA Chapter of the National Junior and Senior Honor Society is proud to announce the following students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society:



SUMMER ABEL
KATELYN SCHRADER

enrollment statistics

Based on an Average

RACE	MALE	FEMALE
Asian or Pacific Islander	1	1
Black, Non-Hispanic	8	11
Hispanic	3	0
American Indian or Alaskan Native	4	4
Multiracial	8	15
Native Hawaii or Other Pacific Islander	0	0
White, Non-Hispanic	20	28
	5	1

TOTAL ENROLLMENT - 541

2011-12
Economically
Disadvantaged **54%**

Attendance Rate
for the 2011-12
School Year **86.8%**



Special Services Report

The QDA is committed to providing support services to all students and teachers. We also provide a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment to all students with disabilities. The Special Services Center monitors to (1) ensure that the special education policies and procedures are in accordance with all federal, state and local mandates, (2) design, implement and evaluate appropriate programs for students with disabilities, and (3) provide technical assistance and staff development opportunities. The QDA focuses on the consistency and quality of special education programs and related services within the district.

Each year school districts throughout Ohio participate in an effort to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities, age 3 through age 21. The QDA provides special education services to approximately 50 students with disabilities, or approximately 8% of the district's student population. If you have a child, or know of a child, you suspect may have a disability as described by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) or Americans with Disabilities Act - Section 504, please contact Mrs. Maureen Wittler, Director of Special Services at 330-339-7218.



Amber Blackwell

QDA teen finishes high school at 15 – Amber Blackwell graduated from QDA at 15 years of age in May, 2013. Congratulations to one of QDA's finest.

QDA was an exceptional opportunity for me because my mother worked nights, so a typical school schedule didn't work for us. We looked into home schooling programs and found that New Philadelphia had their own system, QDA. After joining QDA, my grandmother became ill and my mother and I started taking care of her full time. We spent late nights and early mornings at the hospital, so the QDA scheduling worked much better for us. I hope to pick up some classes at Buckeye Career Center next year and my career path is undecided. However, QDA has worked very well for me and my family. Recently an article was featured in the Times-Reporter about a community service program I coordinated with city officials and workers and Park Place Coordinator Sam Hitchcock. We worked together to clean and refurbish the Skate Park after some vandalism had occurred. With my QDA schedule, I had the flexibility to work on this project.



Skylar ~ Sophomore

"I feel that QDA saved my granddaughter from being a high school dropout. She struggled with large class settings and being bullied by other students and was ready to give up and walk away from the situation. She agreed to give home schooling a try and from the time we walked in the door at the QDA office she has felt accepted and is doing very well. She is a senior this year and with the help of her teacher, Mrs. Leeper, has gotten the best grades she has ever gotten in school. If you want your child out of the public school setting, QDA is the place to get the help you need."

Lynn ~ A QDA Grandparent



QDA gave me a wider range of career choices and helped me better understand certain subjects I sometimes struggled with. QDA courses gave me a program that was at my pace and level for learning and made it easy to do my school work. If I would happen to get stuck, I would get immediate help. I decided to do online schooling due to bullying at my school and some other issues. At QDA, I feel like I can fit in without being judged. I am now planning on taking some college courses during my junior and senior year at QDA to help me to achieve a life goal that I really want to achieve, to become a children's nurse.

Brooke ~ Sophomore



Accept No Limits Kindergarten through Graduation... and beyond!

To learn more about the educational opportunity and procedures necessary to enroll in QDA, visit our website at www.go2qda.org or call 1-866-968-7032 for a personal appointment.



Mathematics Tutor Keith Morales meets with one of his students.



NEW PHILADELPHIA, OH
New Towne Mall
400 Mill Ave. SE, Suite 901
New Philadelphia, OH 44663
330-364-0618
Toll Free: 1-866-968-7032

STEUBENVILLE, OH
2230 Sunset Blvd., Suite 2B
Steubenville, OH 43952
Toll Free: 1-877-427-2863

EAST LIVERPOOL, OH
108 East 5th Street
East Liverpool, OH 43920
Ph: 330-932-0114

BERLIN, OH
5122 State Route 39
Berlin, OH 44610
Ph: 330-893-0440

QDA is a charter school sponsored by the New Philadelphia City School District.

